

[View this email in your browser](#)

## A Golden Bridge Project

### Strategies for Energy Efficiency and Cost Savings

At **Greening Sherman's** first public and free forum in early June, as part of our efforts to reduce the town's carbon footprint, Bob Fischman, who is a consultant to the similarly-targeted Bedford 2030 Project ([Home - Bedford 2030](#)) recommended three strategic steps for every homeowner to take to reduce energy use and increase savings without diminishing home heating and cooling comfort:

**Step 1:** Obtain a home energy assessment to begin sealing your home; reducing air infiltration and leakage; cutting heating, cooling and other energy costs; and calculating your future home energy needs.

**Step 2:** Based on what you calculate to be your home's future energy needs, determine what heating and cooling systems would be most efficient and economical (typical options include electric, gas, heat pump, geothermal). Such a determination would take into account optimal air circulation, building size, number of inhabitants, location, and other factors.

**Step 3:** Figure out the most economical source of electricity to power

whatever heating and cooling system you either have in your home or that you decide to adopt (typical options include electric power from Eversource, alternative electricity suppliers, and/or solar power, with or without battery backups).

A more detailed description of how you can take each of these steps is to be found in the informative slides that Bob showed us during his talk and are posted to our website ***Greeningsherman.org***.

### **How to Obtain a Home Energy Assessment:**

To begin this three-step process, Bob suggested that you initially obtain a home energy assessment through Energize CT, which for a fee of \$50 (or for free, depending on income) will arrange for a utility company-certified technician to come to your home and evaluate your home's utilization of energy, particularly by identifying sites and amounts of air and temperature filtration. They will also install basic weatherization seals and recommend further energy-saving measures you might undertake such as advanced duct sealing, insulation enhancement, efficient water heating, thermal windows, and low energy appliances – much of the costs for which can be reduced through federal and state rebates and tax incentives. On average these energy assessments have provided homeowners with \$1,000 of services and enabled them to realize up to \$200 in savings on their annual energy bills. For a more detailed explanation of Energize CT's home energy assessments and available economic incentives go to [\*\*Energy Evaluations Landing Page | EnergizeCT\*\*](#).

### **Consult an Expert for Guidance:**

Despite the seeming simplicity of the 3-Step strategic plan outlined above, every home and homeowner's circumstances differ and there is a wide variety of energy and cost saving technology options to consider. Town members reported at our forum that they have found assessing home energy needs, planning future cost-saving measures, and taking advantage of state and federal economic incentives to be a complicated and, at times, a daunting undertaking. For those of you who might want expert guidance through this seeming maze, Bob Fischman has agreed, for a \$100 fee, to provide Sherman residents with in-depth, online

consultations, which can be arranged through the **Greening Sherman** website. Based upon your own home's energy use, your priorities, and budget Bob will take you through the choices you will face in taking Steps 1 to 3 as outlined above and help you identify what particular energy and cost saving measures could be most efficient and affordable for your home. Further, he will explain how you can take advantage of state and federal economic rebates and tax breaks to accomplish your goals at a minimum cost. Bob has for years been providing homeowners in other communities with similar consultations and helping them make strategic choices that best suit their goals. For more information and to arrange for a consultation go to [Bob – Greening Sherman](#).

#### **Future Greening Sherman Forums and Resources:**

The next **Greening Sherman** forum, which will take place in July, will focus on Step 1 measures you can take to seal your home, improve its heating and cooling efficiency, and reduce costly energy costs by installing enhanced insulation, energy efficient windows, and other measures. Subsequent forums in the following months will turn to topics related to Step 2 (heating and cooling system options) and then Step 3 (possible energy sources). For specific forum topics and dates keep an eye out for our next newsletters and announcements in *The Town Tribune*, *The Sherman Sentinel*, lawn posters, and fliers in Sherman stores.

Meanwhile, check out our website [www.greeningsherman.org](http://www.greeningsherman.org) for more information about all our efforts to reduce the town's carbon footprint, financial and technical resources to promote energy efficiency, and – in the near future – blog postings from town residents about their experiences pursuing energy efficiency and cost reductions.

Josh DeWind

---

**Contact us at:**  
**[goldenbridgeproject@outlook.com](mailto:goldenbridgeproject@outlook.com)**

**Visit our Website:**  
**[GreeningSherman.org](http://GreeningSherman.org)**

**Follow us on Facebook:**  
**[facebook.com/greening-sherman](https://facebook.com/greening-sherman)**



---

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [unsubscribe from this list](#).